

# The Ceresco Messenger ~ Ceresco Baptist Church

April 2017

## Pastor's Pen April 2017

April, the month of Easter. Flowers will begin to poke their heads above the earth. Trees will begin to blossom. Birds will begin to nest and soon the nest will bring forth life.

We too can begin a new kind of commitment to Jesus Christ. We can spring up from the earth and praise God for the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

We can purpose our lives toward humanity. By simply taking the commands of Jesus to heart, love thy neighbor, love thy enemy.

No matter the time we live in, be it back in the 1940's, 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's or 2017, love is and has always been the cure for what ails societies' woes. Mankind no matter the knowledge they have, rather it be knowledge of the world or God's Word, if love is void, failure will soon follow.

Jesus' command of love is what will cure not only the world's troubles - but it will also cure the church's troubles. It is love that will bring others to the Church's front door. It is Jesus love shown through the Church that will renew broken relationships.

Love must go beyond being a command we adhere to. Love must also be something inside our inner beings. This love comes from Jesus, which lives inside our person.

If we want to see our society come together in unity - then it must start with God's Church. The awakening of the Holy Spirit will begin when we, God's chosen people, begin to take Jesus' command regarding love seriously.

In Christ's service, Pastor Gary Schooler

### **Easter Means Eternal Life**

A perfect God demands a perfect justice; He cannot let us get away with sin.  
We used God's gift of our free will to trespass, So heaven's gates were closed;  
we couldn't get in.

Our sin required our blood, a sacrifice, To atone for all the wrongs that we had done.  
"But I love them!" cried our Father, filled with sorrow; "I'll send my only Son to be the one."

Good Friday marks the slaying of our Jesus, The unblemished lamb, the perfect sacrifice.  
He took our guilt and blame upon Himself, So we could be with Him in paradise.

On Easter morning, he came back from death; He vanished from the tomb, the empty grave.  
His resurrection means eternal life For us, the ones he came to earth to save.

This summarizes all the Easter story And because of it, we'll be with Him in glory.

*By Joanna Fuchs*

## Jesus Loves Me; Easter Tells Me So

Jesus loves me, this I know;  
The Easter story tells me so.  
He died for me to bear my sin;  
He opened heaven to let me in.

Yes, Jesus loves me;  
Yes Jesus loves me;  
Yes Jesus loves me;  
Easter tells me so.

Jesus loved me when He died,  
Loved me enough to be crucified.  
But His death didn't last very long,  
Because His power is so strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me;  
Yes Jesus loves me;  
Yes Jesus loves me;  
Easter tells me so.

Jesus' came back from the dead  
I know because the Bible said.  
Jesus is my Lord and King;  
Love and praise to Him I bring.

Yes, Jesus loves me;  
Yes Jesus loves me;  
Yes Jesus loves me;  
Easter tells me so.

When I die, I'll rise up, too.  
We'll all be in heaven, me and you.  
We'll see Jesus face to face.  
Up in heaven, that happy place.

Yes, Jesus loves me;  
Yes Jesus loves me;  
Yes Jesus loves me;  
Easter tells me so.

The Easter story brings much joy  
To us all, each girl and boy.  
Jesus is my Savior now;  
Heaven and earth to Him must bow.

Yes, Jesus loves me;  
Yes Jesus loves me;  
Yes Jesus loves me;  
Easter tells me so.

*By Joanna Fuchs*

## "It's All Because of Love"

God found fault in mankind  
And knew the time had come;  
To make an atonement for our sin  
He sent His only Son.

God, in His humility,  
Gave to us His child;  
The world, however, expected a King  
Not a Babe so meek and mild!  
The Father named Him Jesus,  
He was the Son of Man.  
They called Him King of Kings  
Who is the Great I Am!

He was known as a Carpenter  
And with humbleness and grace,  
Pursued His Father's Plan  
To save the human race!

His time on Earth was limited.  
There was so much to tell;  
Through miracles and parables  
He taught the people well.

But there were unbelievers.  
God's Truth was denied.  
A decision was made that Christ the Lord  
Would be brutally crucified!

Trudging His way to Golgotha  
He was tortured, mocked and scorned.  
Blood flowed down the Savior's face  
Because of a crown of thorns!

Nails pierced His ravaged flesh  
And many felt such loss.  
For God had sent His only Son  
To be slain upon a cross!

Jesus said, "It is finished!"  
And died one sorrowful day.  
But death had no sting and victory was won.  
He rose and the stone rolled away!

God's mission was accomplished.  
Please know that it is true;  
Our history, the present, and what's to come  
Is a gift from God to you!

No event has been more powerful,  
On Earth or Heaven above;  
For He was, and is, and is to come,  
And It's All Because of Love.

~ by Leslie Rummel

## Youth Choir and Toddler Worship

**2nd & 4th Sundays only**

We would love to have other people volunteer to help with Junior Church! If you are willing to take one Sunday a month, please contact Sharon Hadley, and let her know! We would like to have enough volunteers to be able to offer Junior Church every Sunday, with a rotating schedule. For example, Kay Davis & Linda Cole are doing the third Sunday of every month. Could you take one of the other Sundays? Please consider helping out! Thank you!

## Junior Church

**3rd Sunday only**



Anyone may bring Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary! You can take them home on Easter. Thank you!

## "Holy Week" Youth Day!

Attention parents and grandparents!

Our annual Easter Youth Day is Saturday, April 8th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This year we will be telling three of the Holy Week Stories: Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Morning.

We will provide lunch, and there will be crafts! Please be sure to bring your children & grandchildren to this fun day!

As always, this is a free activity!

*Be a reflection of what you'd like to see in others!*

*If you want love, give love.*

*If you want honesty, give honesty.*

*If you want respect, give respect.*

*You get in return what you give.*



# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Communion Sunday Flowers Sommers		Bible Study 10:00 am	Deacon Meeting 6:00 pm	Jews for Jesus 6:30 pm		Youth Day Holy Week Theme 10-1
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Flowers - OPEN Palm Sunday Brunch		Bible Study 10:00 am	Martha Circle Meeting 6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service at Newton U.M.C. 7:00 pm	Good Friday Service 6:30 pm	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Easter Sunday 8 am & 9:45 am Services CHRIST AROSE!		Bible Study 10:00 am	Family Night Potluck 6:30 pm	Bible Study 6:00 pm		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Flowers OPEN			Information for May Messenger due by noon			
30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6
Flowers OPEN Fellowship Sunday & BAKE SALE!						

## **Martha Circle Minutes - March 8, 2017**

Members present: Gretchen, Kathy, Pam, Darlene, Veronica, Viviana, Joy,  
Devotions given by Veronica, Viviana, - Grace for the Moment devotional by Max Lucado,  
"Kind Hearts", based on 1 Corinthians 13:4 about kindness. If we are able to help people, we  
should do it. Galatians 6:10.

Secretary/Treasurer - Darlene & Joy opened new account at Chemical Bank. Joy needs to  
close out 5/3 account and put money in Chemical.

Correspondence - Joy read letter from Maplewood of Marshall thanking us for the adult bibs.  
Joy read an update from Wayne Niles.

White Cross - the items that had been requested are not needed now.

Sunshine - Pam sent cards to Babcock Family (Joyce Clem's daughter in law's family) and also  
to Shirley Wallace. Joyce's vascular procedure rescheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> in Battle Creek.

Old Business - Last bake sale didn't go very well, only about \$12.00. Need to make sure we  
advertise it in advance in the bulletin. Put reminder in March 12<sup>th</sup> and March 19<sup>th</sup> bulletin.

New Business - Sanctuary Banners - Pastor Gary would like us to make quilted banners for the  
sanctuary between the windows. 39" x 48"

Gretchen looking for praying book ends.

Collections: Devotion \$9.00, Love Gift \$7.07

Scripture Reading: Matthew 19:17-30.

Scripture for Next Month: John 12:1-11

We closed in prayer, and then had refreshments, and tied a couple of fleece blankets.

## **Peace Amidst Chaos**

Go to your cupboard and get a glass. Pour it full of water, place it on a flat surface,  
and stare at it for a minute. What happens? The water settles, the bubbles float,  
then pop, and then... Nothing, right?

But if you were to look at that glass through an electron microscope, you would  
see the most random chaos of molecules shooting around so fast there would be  
little sense to it. Microscopic physics are at work everywhere, and though all seems  
peaceful, so much more is happening undetected by the five senses; from invisible  
chaos comes visible order.

Sometimes, that's how God works in our lives, especially through relationships. To-  
day may deliver stress from your closest friends and family or a complete stranger.  
But keep in mind the Lord moves powerfully through the presence of other people  
in your life. There is stillness despite the clutter, and perspective despite the an-  
guish. Those moments are precious.

## **April Important Dates**

### **Jews for Jesus**

April 6th, 6:30 pm

### **Easter Youth Day**

Saturday, April 8th,  
10am-1pm

Food, fun, & crafts!

### **Palm Sunday Brunch**

The Deacons will again be providing us with a brunch on Palm Sunday after the Worship Service.

### **Maundy Thursday**

Service at Newton UMC 7pm

### **Good Friday Service**

6:30 pm, Ceresco Baptist

### **Easter Sunday Services**

Early Service at 8:00 am

Rolls/doughnuts/coffee

Regular Service at 9:45 am

## **Church Attendance**

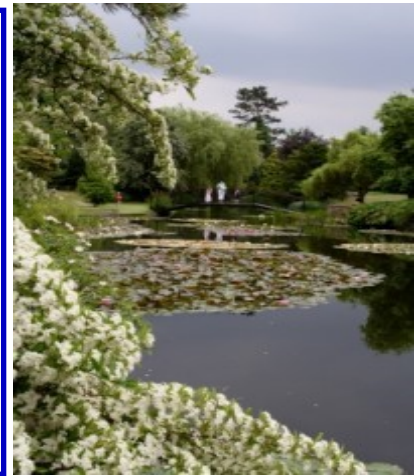
March

5 ~

12 ~

19 ~

26 ~



## **John 3:16-17** New Century Version (NCV)

<sup>16</sup> "God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through Him.

**Luke 24:34** (*Simon Peter*) saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

## **Peter Praises God for a Living Hope**

<sup>3</sup> Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In His great mercy He has given us a new birth and a living hope. This hope is living because Jesus Christ rose from the dead. <sup>4</sup> He has given us new birth so that we might share in what belongs to Him. This is a gift that can never be destroyed. It can never spoil or even fade away. It is kept in heaven for you. ~ 1 Peter 1:34 (NIRV)

## **Thoughts to Ponder . . .**

The Easter Bunny didn't rise from the dead.

Easter shouldn't be the only Sunday you rise to go to Church.

I asked Jesus, how much do You love me...and He stretched His arms wide... and died.

The cross is God's compass pointing to heaven.

Salvation is free-- but not until you ask for it.

Everyone you meet today is on heaven's most wanted list.

Christ traded in the comfort of the manger for the cruelty of the cross.

# Happy Birthday

Apr 1 Emily Biljum  
Apr 4 Alicia Beck  
Apr 5 Gary Heidrich  
Apr 6 Zane Allen Ivey  
Apr 7 Kevin Smith  
Apr 9 Emily Holtz  
Apr 10 Jenny Markos  
Apr 11 Jase Casey  
Apr 11 Shannon Kraft  
Apr 12 Eric Schlee  
Apr 12 Michelle Hatton  
Apr 12 Patty Lutz  
Apr 13 Lindsey Casey  
Apr 13 Ruth Paschen  
Apr 13 Irene Raabe  
Apr 14 Charity Gary  
Apr 14 Reed Goodman  
Apr 16 Darlene Anthony  
Apr 19 Stephany Hatton  
Apr 19 Don St. John  
Apr 24 Stacey Goodman  
Apr 24 Hasley Moore  
Apr 24 Scotie Wood  
Apr 27 Albert Anthony  
Apr 27 Nathan Tuttle  
Apr 28 Linda Schlee  
Apr 29 Jeannette Glen  
Apr 30 Katie (Anthony) Rogers



May 3 Valerie Halder  
May 3 Brian Halverson  
May 5 Alexander Finch  
May 5 Jayme Biljum  
May 6 Jared Babcock  
May 9 Darla Thorpe  
May 13 Rob Kidder  
May 13 Tahlia Kidder  
May 15 Bill Frey  
May 15 Marcy Bonney  
May 17 Kendra Davis  
May 17 Kalab Gary  
May 19 Heather Casey  
May 19 Alice Gombas  
May 23 Kerah Hatton  
May 24 Trish Ivey  
May 25 Diane Biljum  
May 25 Ronnie Hildebrant  
May 26 Trey Casey  
May 26 Shawn Skinner  
May 26 Brad Halverson  
May 28 Linda Cole  
May 30 Mikey Wood



## Happy Anniversary

Apr 4 Rick & Dawn Frey  
Apr 5 Roger & Joy Sommers  
May 3 Brad & Ana Kidder  
May 6 Craig & Nichole Thomas 1995  
May 7 Brad & Charity Gary  
May 9 Chad & Cassidy Hart  
May 21 Trey & Lindsey Casey  
May 26 Jimmy & Alexandria Hamaker  
May 31 Sam & Joanne Henley

Talking is sharing, but listening is caring!

**Devotions – Roger read “His Promise of Care”. Pastor opened with prayer.**

**Bulletin & start of every church meeting, focus on:**

God gives, we receive, we respond, God receives.

**Clerks Report: Joy Sommers**

1. Minutes from December meeting were in Messenger

Annual Report ready for review – took time to look them over. If approved, copies will be available for the congregation tomorrow. Motion by Dawn Frey to approve as submitted, second by Mary Ivey, approved.

**Treasurers Report: Mary Ivey**

1. Reports distributed –

File cabinets have been emptied out and will have locks put on them, and will use those for the church financial records.

**Property Management Ministry Team: Rick Frey**

File cabinets – Rick meeting with Gordon on Monday to see if they can have locks installed.

January – fixed ceiling in Pastor’s office (part of it).

Rick made three round tables for fellowship/meals to be separate from Sunday school.

Need to get some chairs to go around the new tables. Rick & Pastor will look into it.

What will be done with the old table & chairs?

Speaker for the nursery – need a new one, old one is ruined. Rick will look into it.

Clock in library dated back to the civil war era, has been repaired. Will decide where to hang it when we get it back.

**Deacon Ministry Team: Gretchen King**

April 9<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday Brunch

April 10<sup>th</sup> – Food Distribution

April 16<sup>th</sup> – doughnuts/rolls/coffee/juice between the two Easter services

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Memorial/Luncheon for the family of Scott Evans in the afternoon.

May 8<sup>th</sup> – Food Distribution

Begin training for deacons, how to come along side of those grieving. Start date? Pastor is getting this setup.

Emergency contact list was updated for 2017 and distributed awhile back.

**Worship Ministry Team: Mary Ivey**

Youth Choir March 19<sup>th</sup>

Jews for Jesus, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm – need family to host the speaker

West Area Palm Sunday Service at FBC Kalamazoo, April 9<sup>th</sup>

Maundy Thursday Service, 4/13 at Newton UMC, combined choir

Good Friday Service, 6:30 pm

Easter Services 8 am & 9:45 am – may have special music Kathy, Joy

May 14<sup>th</sup> – John & Kate Denner

May 21<sup>st</sup> – Rev. John Good & Family (going to Hungary/Missions)

May 28<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day service

Next meeting is May 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm.

New hymnal dedication took place in February.

**Educational Ministry Team: Joy Sommers**

1. Next Youth Day is Saturday, April 8, 10 am-1 pm, Easter/Holy Week theme.

2. Need substitute teachers for Sunday school classes

3. Jacob will be leaving for college, so we will need a new teacher for the 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade class

4. Need to find people to do Junior Church so that each Sunday is covered.



## EMT Concluded:

5. Next meeting is March 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

## Boy Scouts:

Troops throughout the state are struggling.

Donnie Steele gave us a new American flag, and he maintains it for us.

**Pastor's Quarterly Report: Dec 2016-Feb 2017** - funerals for Toni Taylor, Mike Biljum, - Visits : 22, - Hospital visit : 1, - Bible studies am & pm, - Happy birthday Jesus, - Deacon meetings, - Worship meetings, - Education meetings, - Christmas eve service, - Maplewood communion, - Family nights, - NKPL (new kind of preacher) class, - Hymnal dedication, - MLGW (West area pastors), - MLGP (Peer group), - Food distribution, - Office visits , much time preparing sermons & prayer time and reflection.

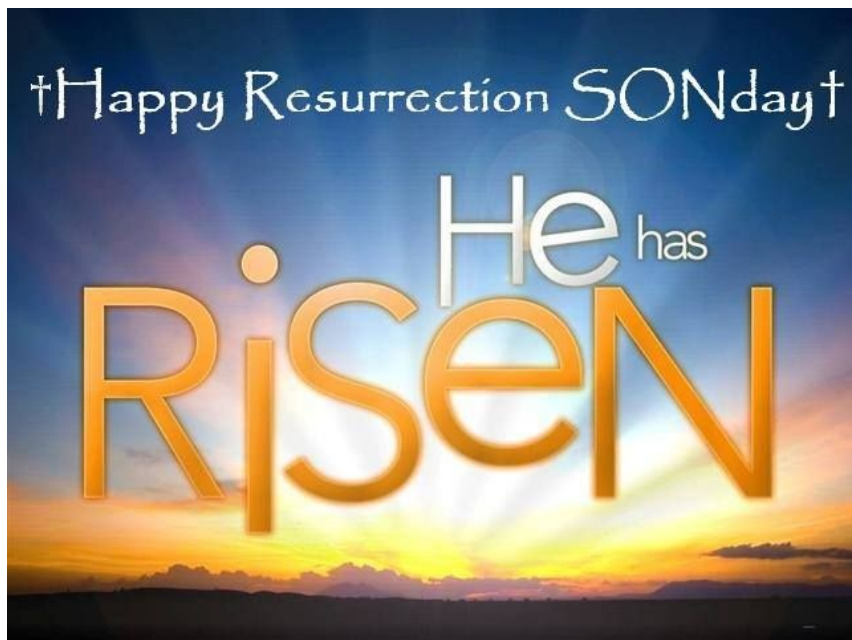
Now have a cell phone for the church phone number (no land line). All calls to the church line are forwarded to Pastor Gary's cell phone.

Church Piano – guy from Second Missionary Baptist Church may come play piano for us, or students from Spring Arbor University may come play from time to time.

## NEW BUSINESS/OPEN ITEMS:

1. Appoint task force to review Missions we support, 2-3 people and Pastor.
2. Appoint task force for redoing church entry. Rick to oversee, start in May 2017
3. Martha Circle agreed to make banners/wall hangings for between sanctuary windows and up front.
4. Moderator & Vic-Moderator, 3 year terms expire 12/17 - Need to think about replacement
5. Appoint nominating committee for 2018 at the June meeting, start in late July 2017.
6. Appoint Budget committee for 2018:
  - a. Motion by Joy, second by Jacob Lewis to appoint Mary Ivey, Dawn Frey, Rick Frey. Motion approved.
  - b. Ministry Teams need to submit their budget requests by July 31<sup>st</sup> to one of the budget committee members.
  - c. Heater in library – not working, needs to be replaced with a new wall unit. Motion by Jacob Lewis, second by Mary Ivey that we have Rick Frey get a new modern heater for the library, purchase, and install, motion approved.
  - d. Echoes of Grace Community Choir will be singing at Pine Grove Mennonite Church on March 19<sup>th</sup>, and Mt. Zion AME Church on Apr15<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. May 21<sup>st</sup> – Rick Frey will not be here (if good weather!)
  - f. Audit quote from Jerilyn Estep of Estep Accounting is \$150-200. Motion by Joy Sommers to accept the quote, second by Pam Kirkland, motion approved.

Next Meeting will be Saturday, June 3, 2017. Meeting closed in prayer by Rick Frey. Adjourned at 11:08 a.m.



## **Ceresco Baptist Church**

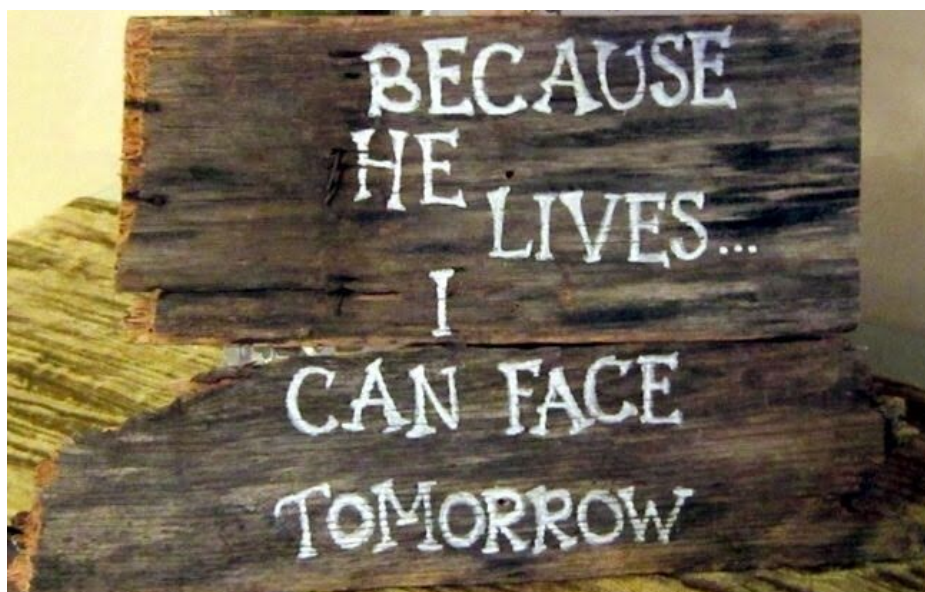
PO Box 35

Ceresco, MI 49033-0035

(269) 964-9669

## **Pastor Gary Schooler**

(517) 990-5883



## **Church Schedule**

### **Sunday Worship**

**9:45 am**

### **Sunday School**

**11:15 am**

### **Bible Study**

**Tuesdays at 10 am**

**Thursdays at 6 pm**